

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07

L-03 ACDA-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02

USIA-06 TRSE-00 EB-07 COME-00 FRB-03 /074 W

-----071158Z 060509 /40

R 061816Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3493

INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, XH, NATO

SUBJECT: ECONADS: TOPIC FOR 1978 ECONOMIC COLLOQUIUM

REF: USNATO 2485, B) USNATO 2621(NOTAL)

1. AT MAY 5 ECONADS MEETING ONLY UK AND GERMAN REPS SPOKE TO CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTIONS FOR 1978 COLLOQUIUM TOPIC. UK REP (HULSE) HAD RECEIVED PRELIMINARY COMMENTS ONLY FROM THE DIRECTORATE OF ECONOMIC INTELLIGENCE AND HENCE HIS COMMENTS WERE TENTATIVE. THE DEI CONSIDERED THAT "PROSPECTS FOR GROWTH IN THE USSR FOR 1985" WAS THE MOST PROMISING OF THE TOPICS SUGGESTED AND FELT THAT ENERGY SHOULD BE DEALT WITH AS ONE OF ITS SUB-TOPICS. THEY FELT THE SAME SUB-TOPIC SHOULD ALSO APPEAR IF THE FIRST OF THE CHAIRMAN'S SUGGESTIONS, "THE EVOLUTION OF EAST-WEST TRADE TO 1985", WAS CHOSEN.

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2. THE GERMAN REP(DAASE) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES AGREED WITH THE UK (ALTHOUGH IN INVERSE ORDER) AND ALSO FELT THAT "REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS IN THE USSR" WOULD BE A DESIRABLE TOPIC. IF THE EAST-WEST TRADE TOPIC WERE CHOSEN THEY FELT THAT THERE SHOULD BE CAREFUL COVERAGE OF TRADE FINANCING WITH A FOCUS ON INDEBTENESS INCLUDING THE

ROLE OF INVISIBLES. THE GERMAN AUTHORITIES ALSO SUGGESTED THAT AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO GET AWAY FROM USING THE SAME PANEL MEMBERS AT THE COLLOQUIUM YEAR AFTER YEAR. IN THE CURRENT CASE, IF TRADE WERE CHOSEN AS THE MAIN TOPIC THEY WOULD SUGGEST THAT AN EFFORT BE MADE TO RECRUIT PARTICIPANTS FROM THE BANKING COMMUNITY, INCLUDING THE THE BANK FOR INTERNATIONAL SETTLEMENTS IN BASLE.

3. CHAIRMAN BILLY REGRETTED THAT THE FRENCH VERSION OF THE DIRECTORATE'S MEMO (ED/EC/77/41) WAS NOT YET AVAILABLE BUT EXPECTED IT WOULD BE CIRCULATED SHORTLY. THIS QUESTION WILL APPEAR ON THE MAY 18 ECONADS MEETING AGENDA. BILLY HOPED FOR A FINAL DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE COLLOQUIUM TOPIC BY MAY 26, SO PLANNING COULD GO FORWARD.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE IN TIME FOR MAY 18 MEETING. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 06-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO02813
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770583/aaaactgx.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 77a20799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2609856
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ECONADS: T
TAGS: EGEN, XH, NATO
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BERLIN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/77a20799-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009